**Modernisation of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**

996. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) would be modernised and expanded;

(b) if so, the investment to be made and source of investment;

(c) the target for completion of the expansion scheme; and the capacity to be increased; and

(d) the target for completion of phase-I and phase-II of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant) has proposed to take up expansion of the plant from 3 million tonne stage to 4.05 million tonne stage of Liquid Steel production at an estimated cost of Rs. 984 crores (Base date of Last quarter 1994-95). The expansion is proposed to be implemented in two phases viz. phase-I in 30 months and thereafter phase-II in 30 months. The expansion will be funded by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant from their own internal resources as well as commercial borrowings.

**Modernisation of Iron Ore Mines in Orissa**

997. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to modernise the iron ore mines in Orissa;

(b) whether the mining and transportation of iron ore to steel plants particularly which are coming up now from the mines, the pithead and plant site would be modernised;

(c) whether any external assistance is being obtained for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details of the scheme of Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) State Government of Orissa has informed that most of the Iron Ore mines in Orissa have been leased out in favour of private individuals/firms. But Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC), which is State Public Sector Undertaking has entered into a Joint Venture Agreement with R.T.Z. of U.K. to modernise their Gandhamardan Iron Ore mines. The joint venture have also a plan to modernise Malangtoli Iron Ore deposit in the event of the mine being leased out in favour of O.M.C. But so far no external assistance has been received by State Government to modernise the Iron Ore mines.

Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), a public sector undertaking under the administrative control of this Ministry operates three iron ore mines in Orissa namely Bolani, Barsua and Kalta.

The iron ore mine at Bolani has been modernised at a cost of Rs. 130 cores as a part of modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant. A new ore processing plant has been constructed and commissioned at Bolani to meet the quantitative and qualitative requirement of Durgapur Steel Plant.

For the iron ore mine at Barsua, SAIL is planning modernisation for improving the quality and augmenting the quantity to meet the specific requirements of Rourkela Steel Plant.

**इस्पात के निर्यात हेतु नए बाजारों की पहचान**

998. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का देश में निर्मित/उत्पादित इस्पात के निर्यात के लिए नये बाजारों का पता लगाने का विचार है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या पिछले वर्ष के दौरान किसी विशिष्ट निर्यात हेतु किन्हीं नए बाजारों का पता लगाया था;

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और